

Discovery and Excavation in Scotland – OASIS-type Form (2006)

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	Shetland Islands
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:	Jarlshof
PROJECT CODE:	HSCO-90174-2008-01; HSCO-90174-2009-01; HSCO-90174-2009-02; HSCO-90174-2009-03
PARISH:	DUNROSSNESS
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:	Andrew Hollinrake
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	Kirkdale Archaeology
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	Watching briefs
NMRS NO(S):	HU30NE 1.00; HU30NE 1.02
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	BROCH, SETTLEMENT, LAIRD'S HOUSE
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	None
NGR (2 letters, 6 figures)	Centred c HU 398 095
START DATE (this season)	8 December 2008
END DATE (this season)	14 May 2009
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. DES ref.)	
MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (May include information from other fields)	<p>Watching briefs were maintained during minor excavations at Jarlshof Prehistoric and Norse Settlement, Shetland, between December 2008 and May 2009. These works were required as part of an ongoing programme to alter and enhance visitor access routes, and replace stone steps with ramps.</p> <p>December 2008: Two sets of steps were to be removed at entrances to the iron age structures to the west of the 17th-century 'Old House', and another set was to be taken out of the steep bank above and west of the earlier structures at the southeast corner of the site. No deposits other than modern landscaping and access structures were excavated. A surface encountered below the removed steps at the west end of the entrance to the earthhouse may represent a previously undisturbed prehistoric horizon, containing bone and charcoal fragments, but seemed more likely to be modern landscaping, perhaps using midden material and spoil from previous excavations.</p> <p>January 2009: A further visit was required to examine an area of collapsed dry stone wall where the far west end of the iron age structures meet the southern limit of the site near the sea wall. The reconstruction of this area of the wall was monitored.</p> <p>February 2009: Minor excavations were carried out as part of an ongoing programme to alter and enhance visitor access. The main part of this work comprised an excavation along the west side of the visitor centre, removing landscaping deposits from a raised platform. Also, a strip of turf was removed just south of this, near the sea wall. To allow access to the site from the north of the visitor centre, a wire fence was taken down, and the removal of two fence posts and resulting ground disturbance were monitored. Prior to these works a small area of drystone wall had collapsed, towards the north end of what are thought to be medieval structures to the northeast of the 'Old House'. A brief examination and photographic record were made of the affected area prior to any</p>

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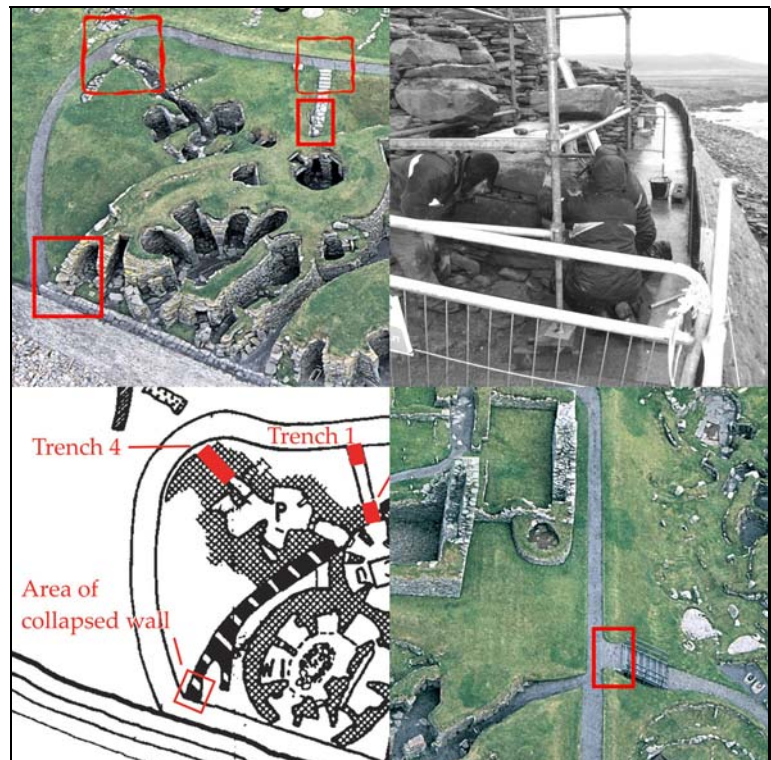
	<p>remedial work. There were no finds or features of archaeological significance revealed during these works.</p> <p>May 2009: The main works during this phase comprised the removal of turf from three structures around the courtyard of the 16th-century laird's house. Also, a small area of turf forming an 'island' in the gravel path just to the northeast of these structures was removed.</p> <p>A wooden viewing platform towards the southeast limit of the site had been removed, and the removal of the bases which had supported the platform was monitored.</p> <p>There were no finds or features of major archaeological significance, and the surfaces revealed in the three 'rooms' around the courtyard appeared to be redeposited material from excavations carried out in the late 19th- and/or early 20th-century.</p>
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	
CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:	
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	Historic Scotland
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ARCHIVE LOCATION (intended/deposited)	Archive to be deposited in NMRS

Historic Scotland
Properties in Care
Minor Archaeological Works 2008-9

Jarlshof Prehistoric And Norse Settlement: Archaeological monitoring, December 2008 & January 2009

HS PIC Index number: 90174

Project codes: HSCO-90174-2008-01, HSCO-90174-2009-01



16 January 2009
Kirkdale Archaeology

<u>Site</u>	Jarlshof Prehistoric and Norse Settlement
<u>N.G.R</u>	HU 398 095
<u>Project Description</u>	Archaeological monitoring
<u>Project codes</u>	HSCO-90174-2008-01; HSCO-90174-2009-01

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SUMMARY

Minor excavations were carried out in three areas at Jarlshof Prehistoric and Norse Settlement, Shetland, in December 2008. These works were required as part of an ongoing programme to alter and enhance visitor access routes, and replace stone steps with ramps.

Three areas were affected. Two sets of steps were to be removed at entrances to the iron age structures to the west of the 17th-century 'Old House', and another set was to be taken out of the steep bank above and west of the earlier structures at the southeast corner of the site.

No deposits other than modern landscaping and access structures were excavated. A surface encountered below the removed steps at the west end of the entrance to the earthhouse may represent a previously undisturbed prehistoric horizon, containing bone and charcoal fragments, but seemed more likely to be modern landscaping, perhaps using midden material and spoil from previous excavations.

A further visit was required in January 2009 to examine an area of collapsed dry stone wall where the far west end of the iron age structures meet the southern limit of the site near the sea wall. The reconstruction of this area of the wall was monitored.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

Kirkdale Archaeology was asked to undertake a watching brief during alterations to access routes around Jarlshof Prehistoric and Norse Settlement, Shetland.

Stone steps were removed from three separate areas, two of which were to make way for new access ramps, while the third involved the removal of a flight of steps from a steep bank. This work was undertaken on 8 December 2008.

A second visit was required to examine an area of collapsed dry stone wall where the far west end of the iron age structures meet the southern limit of the site by the sea wall. This work took place on 15 January 2009.

2.0 DESCRIPTION

2.1 Trenches 1 and 2

Two areas were excavated on the access path running south from the main path, into

the north side of the iron age wheelhouses to the west of the 17th-century 'Old House'.

Trench 1 saw the removal of a flight of steps comprising six rectangular slabs, **102**, measuring up to 400 x 500 x 800 mm, from the north end of the area. Below this was an irregular bedding layer, **103**, a fairly loose mixture of mid to dark brown sandy soil and bedding stones for the removed steps. In the soil there were frequent stone fragments up to 10 x 10 x 10 mm, and the bedding stones were angular slabs up to 250 x 150 x 25 mm. This deposit was only partially excavated, since the depth required to allow insertion of the northern, uppermost end of the ramp had been reached.

In Trench 2, towards the south end of the 800 mm wide path, several sub-angular and rounded stones, **201**, were removed to leave room for the south end of the ramp to be installed. The largest stone measured 400 x 540 x 160 mm. As in Trench 1, these stones were sitting in a mix of mid to dark brown sandy soil and small stone fragments, **202**, up to 70 mm deep. The removal of these stones and soil left a hole across the width of the path, running *c* 0.5 m north-south and up to 200 mm below the upper surface of the path's remaining stones, at the bottom of which the surface of another deposit was revealed. This was a mid brown sandy, clayey soil layer, **203**, with charcoal flecks and shell and bone fragments. This was left unexcavated.

2.2 Trench 3

At the west end of the curved path running from close to the west side of the visitor centre towards the higher level path to the east of the Old House, a platform of stone was removed. The flat upper surface, **301**, measured 1.70 m north-south and 1.10 m east-west, and was made up of stones up to 70 x 100 x 300 mm. These were laid edge-on, aligned north-south forming a level surface. The vertical east facing side of this platform extended *c* 450 mm below the top of the slope into which it was set and was revetted with a mixture of rectangular and sub-angular stones up to 300 x 600 mm and up to 100 mm thick.

The upper surface of stones was set in loose bedding sand, **302**, up to 45 mm deep, which overlay **303**, fairly loose mid to dark brown sandy, peaty soil, which was

excavated to a depth of 160 mm below the turf at the top of the slope, but not bottomed.

2.3 Trench 4

Another set of steps was taken out between the main access path and the entrance to the earthhouse, the westernmost of the Iron Age structures to the west of the Old House.

Firstly, a small area of the path surface was removed. This grey gravel and sand, **401**, was taken out in a strip up to *c* 1.10 m north-south, up to 500 mm east-west, up to 90 mm deep. Then the stones forming the flight of four steps, **402**, were removed. These were rectangular slabs, mostly *c* 300 x 600 mm, 100 mm thick, with several smaller, more angular, levelling slabs below. Under these slabs was a fairly loose, mixed deposit of mid to dark brown soil and angular stones, **403**, very similar in composition to that seen below the stone steps removed in Trenches 1 and 2. Only the far west end of this deposit needed to be fully removed (depth 70 mm maximum at this point) to allow room for the proposed ramp, while the east end needed no more than 20 mm removed. Under the north end of **403**, **404** was revealed, sandy, clayey soil with occasional bone and charcoal fragments visible in its fairly compact surface – this deposit was left unexcavated.

2.4 Reconstruction of collapsed wall

A further visit was required to examine an area of collapsed dry stone wall where the far west end of the iron age structures meet the southern limit of the site by the sea wall.

The affected area measured up to 1.25 m north-south, to a maximum height of 1.20 m. The wall was up to 800 mm thick here, and was made up from a wide variety of local stone types and sizes, including small, flat slabs, large, rounded beach stones and massive blocks up to 260 x 850 x 900 mm. There was no bonding in this dry stone structure, although in a few places, modern cement repair could be seen. A photographic record was made of the wall before, during and after reconstruction, in very difficult conditions due to the appalling weather.

Although displaced and loosened, the larger blocks remained in what seemed close

to their original orientation and position relative to each other. To allow access to the lower stones, the large, uppermost block was removed while those below were repositioned and the smaller packing stones re-inserted. Once the upper block was back in place, the temporary supporting scaffolding was removed and the remaining packing stones replaced.

3.0 INTERPRETATION AND OBSERVATIONS

In trenches 1-4, the removal of stone steps affected only modern structures and landscaping. The deposits **203** in trench 2 and **404** in trench 4, containing bone, shell and charcoal fragments, revealed below modern layers, may represent a previously undisturbed prehistoric horizon, but considering the amount of disturbance to these areas during excavations in the 1930s, they seem more likely to be part of modern landscaping, perhaps using midden material and spoil from excavations to build up and level areas for the access paths.

The monitoring of the reconstruction of the small area of wall did not provide any new information regarding the method of construction, and the wall was restored as closely as possible to its original state.

A1.0

APPENDIX 1: LIST OF CONTEXTS

Trench 1	
101	Turf and topsoil, max 100 mm deep
102	Steps comprising six rectangular slabs up to 400 x 500 x 800 mm
103	Fairly loose mid to dark brown sandy, peaty soil

Trench 2	
200	Turf and topsoil, max 100 mm deep
201	Sub-angular and rounded stones up to 400 x 540 x 160 mm.
202	Mix of mid to dark brown sandy soil and small stone fragments up to 70 mm deep.
203	Mid brown sandy, clayey soil with charcoal flecks and shell and bone fragments. Unexcavated.

Trench 3	
301	Level stone platform, edge laid slabs forming upper surface, with revetting on east facing side, up to 1.70 m north-south and 1.10 m east-west, up to 450 mm deep
302	Loose bedding sand up to 45 mm deep
303	Fairly loose mid to dark brown sandy, peaty soil

Trench 4	
401	Grey gravel and sand 90 mm deep
402	Stone steps x 4, c 300 x 600 mm, 100 mm thick
403	Mixed deposit of mid to dark brown soil and angular stones
404	Sandy, clayey soil with occasional bone and charcoal fragments

A2.0

APPENDIX 2: LIST OF DRAWINGS

No	Type	Trench	Description	Scale	Date
1	Plan	1	Location drawing	1:500	8/12/08

HSCO-90174-2008-01 Trenches 1-4

#	Description	From	Date
1	Trenches 1& 2 before excavation	S	8/12/08
2	Trenches 1& 2 before excavation	S	8/12/08
3	Trenches 1& 2 before excavation	N	8/12/08
4	Trench 2 after excavation	N	8/12/08
5	Trench 2 after excavation	N	8/12/08
6	Trench 2 after excavation	E	8/12/08
7	Trench 2 after excavation	E	8/12/08
8	Trench 2 after excavation	N	8/12/08
9	Trench 2 after excavation	S	8/12/08
10	Trenches 1& 2 after excavation	N	8/12/08
11	Trench 3 before excavation	E	8/12/08
12	Trench 3 before excavation	SE	8/12/08
13	Trench 3 after excavation	SE	8/12/08
14	Trench 3 after excavation	E	8/12/08
15	Trench 3 after excavation	S	8/12/08
16	Trench 4 before excavation	E	8/12/08
17	Trench 4 before excavation	E	8/12/08
18	Trench 4 before excavation	S	8/12/08
19	Trench 4 before excavation	SW	8/12/08
20	Trench 4 after excavation	E	8/12/08
21	Trench 4 after excavation	E	8/12/08
22	Trench 4 after excavation	S	8/12/08
23	Trench 4 after excavation	W	8/12/08
24	Trench 4 after excavation	E	8/12/08

#	Description	From	Date
25	Trench 4 after excavation	W	8/12/08
26	Trench 4 after excavation	W	8/12/08
27	Trench 4 after excavation	S	8/12/08

HSCO-90174-2009-01 Reconstruction of damaged wall

#	Description	From	Date
1	Damaged wall, prior to reconstruction	SE	15/1/09
2	Damaged wall, prior to reconstruction	SE	15/1/09
3	Damaged wall, prior to reconstruction	SE	15/1/09
4	Damaged wall, prior to reconstruction	S	15/1/09
5	Damaged wall, prior to reconstruction	NW	15/1/09
6	Damaged wall, prior to reconstruction	SW	15/1/09
7	Damaged wall, prior to reconstruction	SW	15/1/09
8	Damaged wall, prior to reconstruction	W	15/1/09
9-11	Reconstruction in progress	-	15/1/09
12	Reconstruction complete	SE	15/1/09
13	Reconstruction complete	SE	15/1/09
14	Reconstruction complete	SW	15/1/09
15	Reconstruction complete	SW	15/1/09
16	Reconstruction complete	SW	15/1/09

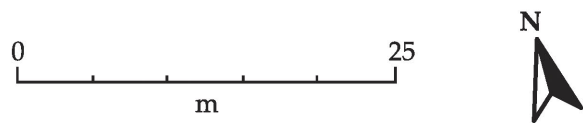
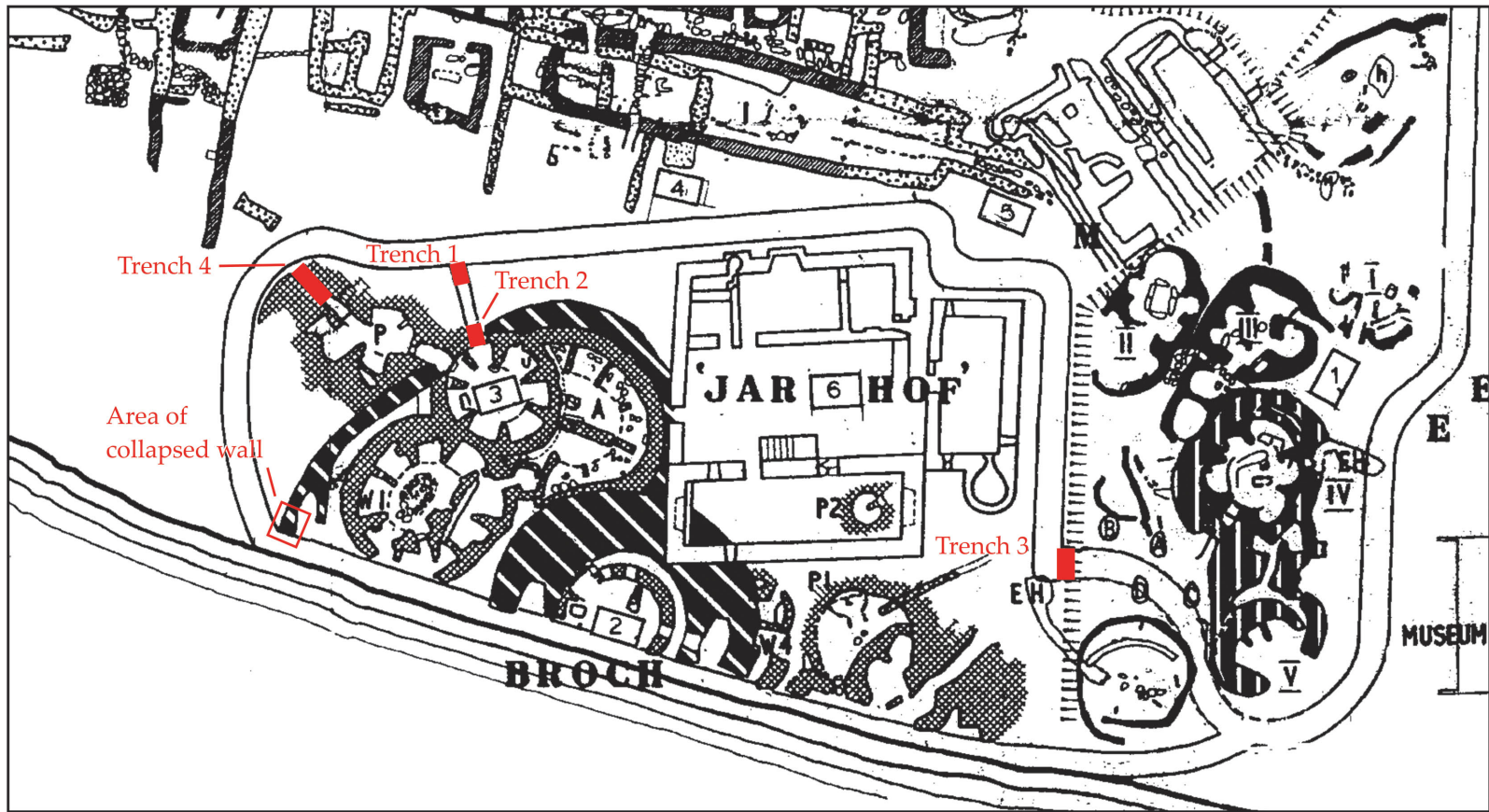
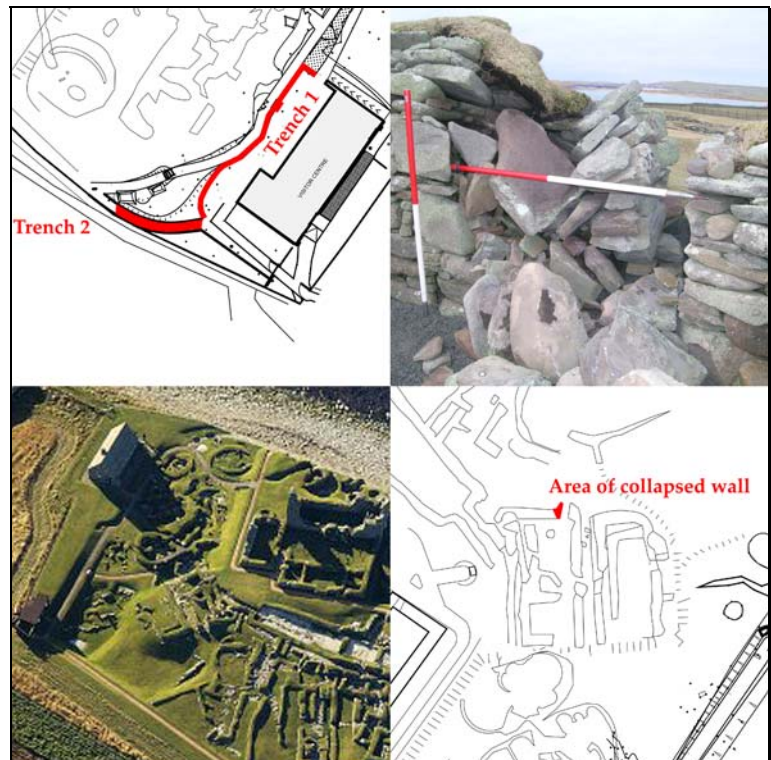


Fig. 1 : Plan showing location of works (approx. 1:500)

Historic Scotland
Properties in Care
Minor Archaeological Works 2008-9

Jarlshof Prehistoric and Norse Settlement: Archaeological monitoring, February 2009

HS PIC Index number: 90174
Project code: HSCO-90174-2009-02



26 March 2009
Kirkdale Archaeology

<u>Site</u>	Jarlshof Prehistoric and Norse Settlement
<u>N.G.R</u>	HU 398 095
<u>Project Description</u>	Archaeological monitoring
<u>Project codes</u>	HSCO-90174-2009-02

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SUMMARY

Minor excavations were carried out at Jarlshof Prehistoric and Norse Settlement, Shetland, in February 2009. These works were required as part of an ongoing programme to alter and enhance visitor access.

The main part of this work comprised an excavation along the west side of the visitor centre, removing landscaping deposits from a raised platform. Also, a strip of turf was removed just south of this, near the sea wall.

To allow access to the site from the north of the visitor centre, a wire fence was taken down, and the removal of two fence posts and resulting ground disturbance were monitored.

Prior to these works a small area of drystone wall had collapsed, towards the north end of what are thought to be medieval structures to the northeast of the 'Old House'. A brief examination and photographic record were made of the affected area prior to any remedial work.

There were no finds or features of archaeological significance revealed during these works.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

Kirkdale Archaeology was asked to undertake a watching brief during minor excavations at Jarlshof Prehistoric and Norse Settlement, Shetland.

The main part of this work comprised an excavation along the west side of the visitor centre to allow the insertion of foundations for a new wall. Also, a strip of turf was removed just south of this, near the sea wall.

To allow access to the site from the north of the visitor centre, a wire fence was taken down, and the removal of two fence posts and subsequent ground disturbance were monitored.

Prior to these works a small area of drystone wall had collapsed, towards the north end of what are thought to be medieval structures to the northeast of the 'Old House'. A brief examination and photographic record were made of the affected area prior to any remedial work.

2.0 DESCRIPTION

2.1 Trench 1

This irregularly shaped trench followed the E edge of the existing access path to the west of the visitor centre. It's overall length was *c* 15 m, with a general width of *c* 500 mm, mostly aligned N-S except for a short E-W section at it's far N end. It was cut into a raised bank to a varied depth below the turf – the excavation was required to a level 250 mm below the path surface – between 250 and 800 mm.

The raised earth platform to the E was retained by stone revetting, **101**, over much of the length of the trench. This and the turf and very dark brown sandy, peaty topsoil, **102**, were removed. The depth of **102** varied between 150 and 200 mm. Below this, was a layer of fairly loose, dark brown, sandy soil, **103**, between 100 and 200 mm thick, with occasional stone fragments up to 20 x 50 x 100 mm, seen over the whole length of the trench, although in some places the excavation depth stopped short of the lower limit of this layer.

Seen only in the deeper mid-section of the trench was a very stony layer, **104**, up to 200 mm thick. The stone was mostly small to medium-sized angular fragments, with occasional larger sub-rectangular and water-rounded beach stones up to 200 x 250 x 600 mm.

2.2 Trench 2

This area saw only the removal of turf to a maximum depth of 100 mm in a curving line *c* 700 mm wide and 8 m long, running roughly E to W from the far S end of Trench 1.

2.3 Fence post removal

Two fence posts were removed just E of the NE corner of the visitor centre. This only disturbed turf and topsoil to a depth of 150 mm.

2.4 Examination of collapsed wall

The area of collapse was on the W side of a narrow entrance at the N end of one of the long, narrow structures of medieval or later date to the NE of the site. The full

width of the wall was affected and had mostly slipped away from the wall to the W. This area of wall had a maximum height of 1.50 m, and was up to 900 mm thick. It was of drystone construction, randomly coursed with a wide variety of stone types and sizes, but mostly angular and sub-angular sandstone slabs and blocks up to 100 x 500 x 600, with occasional water-rounded stones up to 150 x 300 x 500 mm.

Prior to slippage this entrance was *c* 400 mm in width and 1.65 m N-S. The wall on the E side of the passage was unaffected by this collapse, but stood at a maximum height of only 750 mm.

3.0 INTERPRETATION AND OBSERVATIONS

The deposits in Trench 1 appear to be mostly imported soil and stone to create a level platform partially supported by a retaining stone revetment. The stonier, lower layers may be associated with the construction of the building now used as the visitor centre, while the upper layers may be later landscaping.

Trench 2 and the fence post holes were not deep enough to reveal anything other than topsoil.

Remedial work to reconstruct the area of collapsed wall will no doubt involve partial dountaking, and the reconstruction can be aided both by photographs taken during this visit and archival photographs of this part of the site.

A1.0 APPENDIX 1: LIST OF CONTEXTS

Trench 1	
101	Stone revetment, retaining wall
102	Turf and very dark brown sandy, peaty topsoil
103	Fairly loose, dark brown, sandy soil
104	Stony layer up to 200 mm thick

A2.0 APPENDIX 2: LIST OF DRAWINGS

No	Type	Description	Scale	Date
1	Plan	Location drawing	c 1:500	19/2/09

A3.0 APPENDIX 3: LIST OF PHOTOGRAPHS

#	Description	From	Date
1	General view prior to excavation	N	18/2/09
2	General view prior to excavation	S	18/2/09
3	General view prior to excavation	W	18/2/09
4	General view prior to excavation	NW	18/2/09
5	Fence posts removed	N	18/2/09
6	Fence posts removed	N	18/2/09
7-15	Collapsed wall		18/2/09
16	Trench 2 after removal of turf	W	19/2/09
17	Trench 2 after removal of turf	W	19/2/09
18	N facing section at far N end of Trench 1	N	19/2/09
19-25	W facing section of Trench 1	W	19/2/09
26	Far S end of Trench 1	NW	19/2/09
27	General view, Trench 1 completed	S	19/2/09
28-30	General views, Trench 1 completed	S	19/2/09
29-35	General views, Trench 1 completed	N	19/2/09

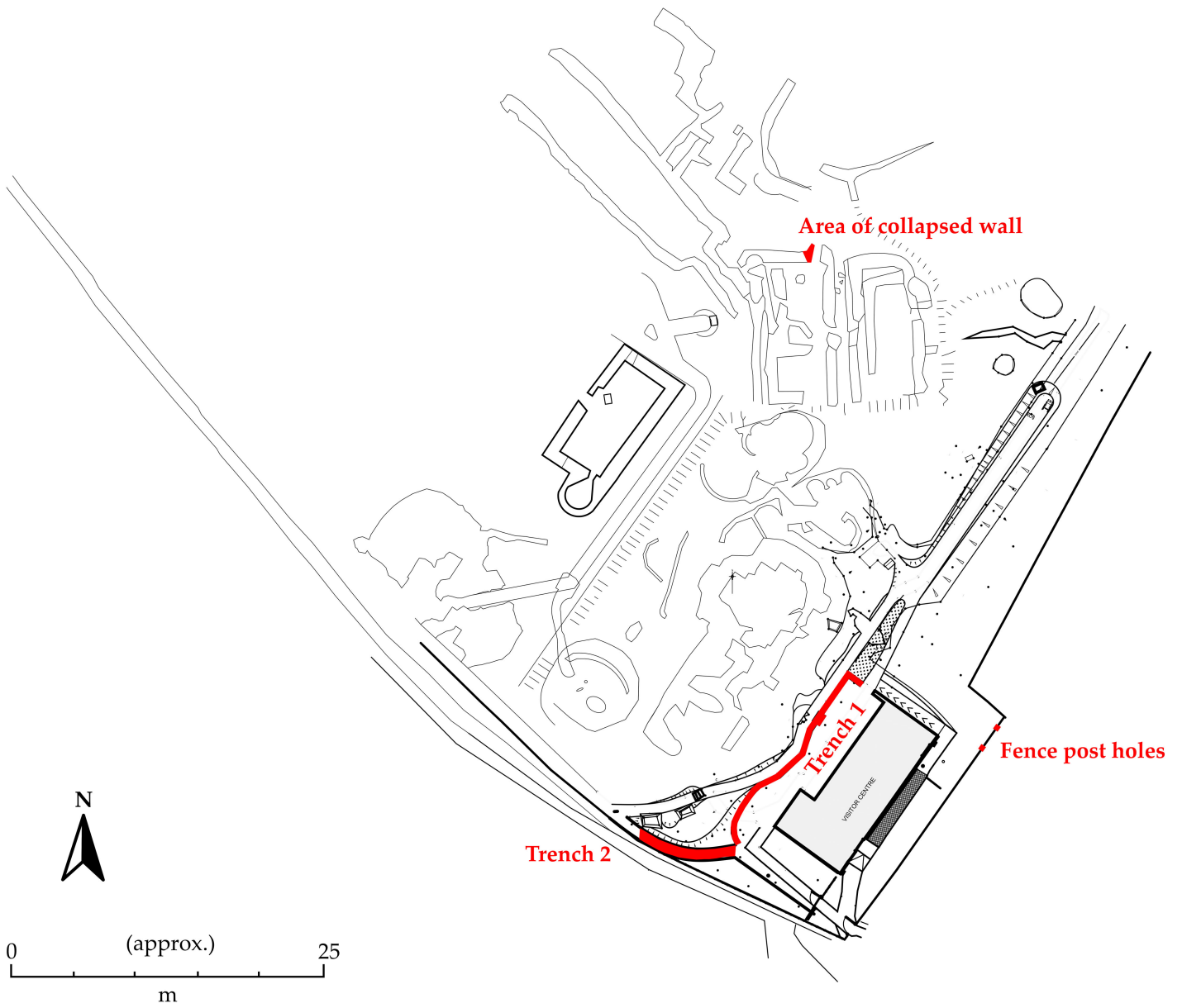
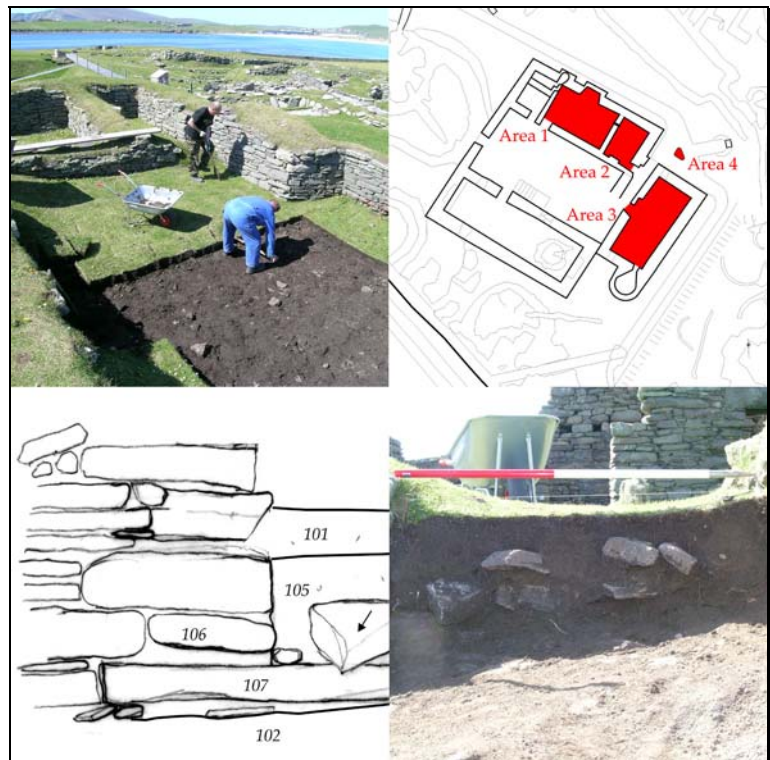


Fig. 1 : Plan showing location of works

Historic Scotland
Properties in Care
Minor Archaeological Works 2009

Jarlshof Prehistoric and Norse Settlement: Archaeological monitoring, May 2009

HS PIC Index number: 90174
Project codes: HSCO-90174-2009-03



6 July 2009
Kirkdale Archaeology

<u>Site</u>	Jarlshof Prehistoric and Norse Settlement
<u>N.G.R</u>	HU 398 095
<u>Project Description</u>	Archaeological monitoring
<u>Project codes</u>	HSCO-90174-2009-03

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SUMMARY

A watching brief and minor excavations were carried out during works at Jarlshof Prehistoric and Norse Settlement, Shetland, in May 2009. These works were part of an ongoing programme to alter and enhance visitor access.

The main works comprised the removal of turf from three structures around the courtyard of the 16th-century laird's house. Also, a small area of turf forming an 'island' in the gravel path just to the northeast of these structures was removed.

A wooden viewing platform towards the southeast limit of the site had been removed, and the removal of the bases which had supported the platform was monitored.

There were no finds or features of major archaeological significance, and the surfaces revealed in the three 'rooms' around the courtyard appeared to be redeposited material from excavations carried out in the late 19th- and/or early 20th-century.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

Kirkdale Archaeology was asked to undertake archaeological monitoring during works at Jarlshof Prehistoric and Norse Settlement, Shetland. These works were part of an ongoing programme to alter and enhance visitor access.

The main works comprised the removal of turf from three structures around the courtyard of the 16th-century laird's house, where a new surface of grey 'dust' was to be laid. Also, a small area of turf forming an 'island' in the gravel path just to the northeast of these structures was removed to create a uniform level to enhance wheelchair access.

Excavations in the early 20th-century in the courtyard and surrounding structures had revealed burials, left *in situ* (Bruce 1907). Although no more than turf was to be lifted in these areas, care was taken not to disturb any previously unexcavated surfaces.

A wooden viewing platform towards the southeast limit of the site had been removed, and the removal of the bases which had supported the platform was

monitored.

The work was undertaken between 12 and 14 May 2009.

2.0 DESCRIPTION

2.1 Area 1

This area was a rectangular room measuring up to c 6.5 m NW-SE and 4.0 m SW-NE. A mostly level area of turf, **101**, up to 160 mm thick was removed revealing fairly loose dark brown sandy, peaty soil, **102**, with frequent stones, mostly flat, angular slabs up to 180 x 200 x 50 mm thick.

A raised mound towards the south corner, **103**, was left unexcavated, believed to be a burial as shown on a location plan from the 1906 excavation report. Those excavations seemingly left such burials *in situ* while excavating surrounding areas completely, thus leaving this burial higher than surrounding levels – in this case up to c 600 mm above the general excavated level. At the NW, upper end of this mound there was a slumped slab, only the top of which was protruding up to 150 mm, leaning to the NW, with a maximum visible thickness of 60 mm. Another slab lay slumped against the SE end of the mound, with maximum dimensions of 350 mm vertically, 660 mm SW-NE.

A recess in the NE wall showed signs of having been a hearth. Although not fully revealed by turf removal, and clearly much disturbed and redeposited during earlier excavations, a few vertically set stones and *in situ* slabs were seen, some heat affected (**104**).

In the north corner of the room there was a ramp sloping down into the area from the higher-level courtyard to the SW. Although it was thought that this ramp had been constructed in relatively recent times to improve access (pers. comm. HS MCU) it was excavated by hand by the archaeologist down to the same level as the rest of the room after turf (**101**) had been removed. The area excavated measured c 1.0 x 1.0 m. Under the turf was a loose, mixed deposit of rubble and very sandy, mid to dark brown soil, **105**. The stones were very angular and varied widely in size, up to 100 x 250 x 300 mm, averaging 60 x 120 x 240 mm, and a few fragments of animal bone

were seen. A few stones were rectangular and although broken into fragments, had the appearance of squared building stone. One of these, measuring 85 x 230 x 260 mm had slight traces of a compact, light yellow, sandy, gritty mortar, although no fragments of mortar were seen in the deposit in general. The NE limit of this rubble built ramp was not clearly defined although stones seen beyond the slope to the north may show that this imported material may have spread up to 500 mm beyond the levelled area, perhaps deliberately creating a gradual slope.

The excavation of the ramp material, **105**, created a vertical section in line with the internal face of the SW wall of the room, **106**, leaving the material in the doorway itself unexcavated. Most of the section revealed comprised **105**, but immediately under this deposit was what appeared to be a step or threshold, **107**, forming part of the base of the doorway into the courtyard. Not fully exposed, the visible edge of this stone showed it to be up to at least 80 mm and at least 1.10 m long, NW-SE.

Although the floor of the room was not fully excavated to natural deposits, there was no sign of an intact stone slab floor.

2.2 Area 2

This room measured *c* 3.0 m NW-SE by 4.3 m SW-NE. The turf, **201**, taken from this area was shallower, mostly 70-80 mm thick, and as such did not reveal any deposits below topsoil. This loose, dark brown, sandy topsoil contained occasional small angular stones, and one large, flat lying, angular slab which had been visible before turf stripping, measuring up to 850 mm NW-SE by up to 650 mm SW-NE, 75 mm thick.

2.3 Area 3

The last of the three rooms to be stripped of turf measured up to *c* 4.0 m NW-SE by 9.0 m SW-NE. Again, the turf removed, **301**, was shallow, mostly up to 80 mm, and the loose, dark brown, sandy topsoil contained a few small, angular stones. No deposits below this topsoil were disturbed, but towards the SW end of the room, the soil was a little stonier, and no more than the upper edges of a few stones, which seemed to be set firmly *in situ* could be seen.

2.4 **Area 4**

This area was a small island of grass in the gravel path just to the NE of the courtyard of the laird's house and surrounding structures. The turf, **401**, was removed and was up to 100 mm thick, of which *c* 40-50 mm of which lay above the path level, and so the resulting excavated area reached a maximum depth of 50 mm below path level, revealing loose sand and sandy soil.

2.5 **Area 5**

The eight metal bases of a wooden viewing platform, already dismantled, were removed under archaeological supervision. The platform had been set in these bases towards the SE end of the site over an area *c* 2.0 x 2.0 m. Each hole measured up to 350 x 350 mm and disturbed only turf and loose, dark brown, sandy, peaty, topsoil, **501**, up to a maximum depth of 250 mm.

3.0 **INTERPRETATION AND OBSERVATIONS**

Little of archaeological interest was seen in the excavated areas, and although these works disturbed no more than turf, topsoil and relatively recent landscaping, it could be seen that the three rooms around the courtyard had been disturbed by the early 20th-century excavations.

The nature of material used to build up the ramp into Area 1, **105**, seemed to indicate it was imported material as part of a recent landscaping exercise, and the fact that it sits directly on masonry forming the base of the doorway from the courtyard suggests that the original levels of landscaping and backfilled material in this room following the excavations were no higher than the door threshold. This is significantly lower than the level currently seen in the courtyard, and it is possible that previously undisturbed deposits may exist within the doorway or very close to its SW limit.

4.0 **REFERENCES**

Bruce, J 1907 'Notice of the Excavation of a Broch at Jarlshof, Sumburgh, Shetland', Proc Soc Antiq Scot, 41 (1906-7), 11-33.

A1.0 APPENDIX 1: LIST OF CONTEXTS

Area 1	
101	Turf and dark brown topsoil up to 160 mm thick
102	Loose dark brown sandy, peaty soil, with frequent stones, mostly flat, angular slabs up to 180 x 200 x 50 mm thick.
103	Mound in S corner, 1.00 m SW-NE, 2.10 NW-SE, c 600 mm high
104	Recess in NE wall, possible hearth
105	Mixed deposit of rubble and very sandy, mid to dark brown soil, angular stones up to 100 x 250 x 300 mm, averaging 60 x 120 x 240 mm, with a few fragments of animal bone
106	Internal face of SW wall
107	Slab in base of doorway, up to at least 80 mm and at least 1.10 m long, NW-SE

Area 2	
201	Turf and dark brown, sandy topsoil c 80 mm thick

Area 3	
301	Turf and dark brown, sandy topsoil c 80 mm thick

Area 4	
401	Turf and dark brown, sandy topsoil c 100 mm thick

Area 5	
501	Turf and loose, dark brown, sandy, peaty, topsoil, at least 250 mm.

A2.0 APPENDIX 2: LIST OF DRAWINGS

No	Type	Description	Scale	Date
1	Plan	Location drawing – amended HS plan	1:500	12/5/09
2	Section	NE facing section, NW end of 106	1:10	13/5/2009

APPENDIX 3: LIST OF DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHS

#	Description	From	Date
7358-60	General views of work in Area 1		12/5/2009
7367-69	General views of work in Area 1	W	12/5/2009
7372-73	Area 5 after base removed	SE	13/5/2009
7374	Area 1 after 301 removed	S	13/5/2009
7375	Area 1 after 301 removed	E	13/5/2009
7376	Area 1 after 301 removed	NW	13/5/2009
7377-79	Area 1, recess in NE wall	SW	13/5/2009
7380	Area 1, recess in NE wall	S	13/5/2009
7381-82	Area 2 after 201 removed	SW	13/5/2009
7383-84	Slab in Area 2	NW	13/5/2009
7387	'Ramp' in NW corner of Area 1 before excavation	E	14/5/2009
7388	'Ramp' in NW corner of Area 1 before excavation	NE	14/5/2009
7389	'Ramp' in NW corner of Area 1 before excavation	SW	14/5/2009
7390	'Ramp' in NW corner of Area 1 before excavation	W	14/5/2009
7391-94	'Ramp' in NW corner of Area 1 after 101 removed showing 105	NE	14/5/2009
7395-96	'Ramp' in NW corner of Area 1 after 101 removed showing 105	NW	14/5/2009
7397	Area 4 after excavation	S	14/5/2009
7398	Area 4 after excavation	E	14/5/2009
7399	Area 4 after excavation	W	14/5/2009
7401	NE facing section after removal of 105	NE	14/5/2009
7402	SW corner of Area 1 after removal of 105	NE	14/5/2009
7403	NE facing section, detail	NE	14/5/2009
7404	Area 1, unexcavated mound, poss. Burial 103	NE	14/5/2009
7405	Area 1, unexcavated mound, poss. Burial 103	SE	14/5/2009

#	Description	From	Date
7406	Area 1, unexcavated mound, poss. Burial 103	E	14/5/2009
7408-9	NE facing section after removal of 105	NE	14/5/2009
7410	Area 3	NE	14/5/2009



Fig. 1 : Plan showing location of works

SE

NW

SW
end
of
NW
wall

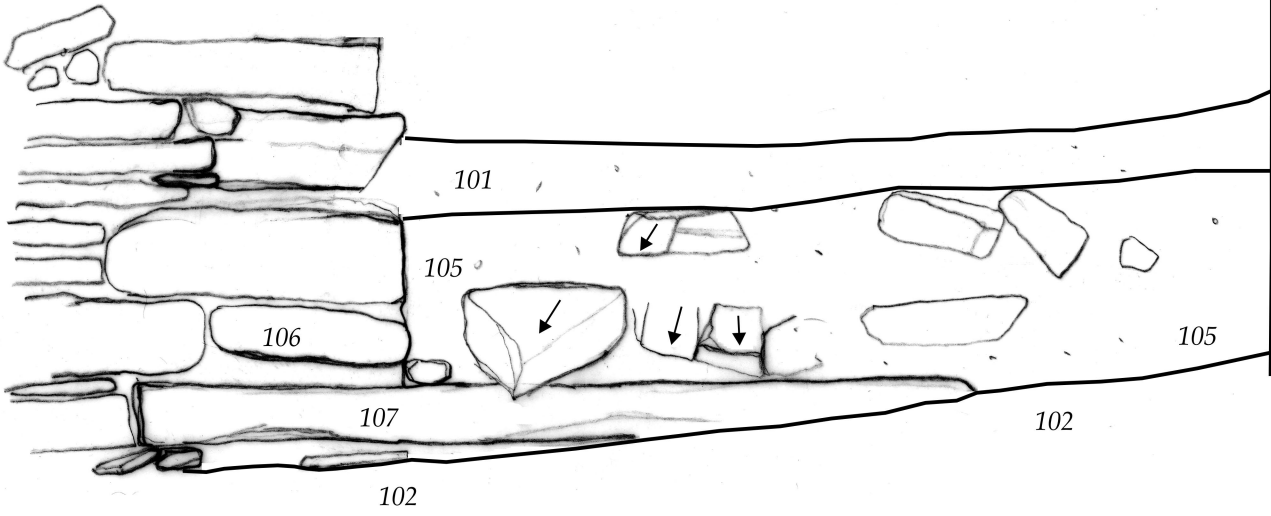


Fig. 2 : NE facing section (1:10), NW end of internal elevation of SW wall, Area 3.